

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 35

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JUNE 5, 1944

## Plans Move Forward For Liberated Areas

**Agreement Reached with Governments-in-Exile of Norway, Holland, and Belgium**

**FRENCH RELATIONS STILL CLOUDED**

**De Gaulle and Members of Committee to Confer with Churchill on Outstanding Problems**

During the last month, more than at any time since the surrender of France, attention has been focused upon the millions of Europeans living under the Nazi yoke. For the first time, definite and detailed instructions have been broadcast to the underground forces of the nations of western Europe by General Eisenhower's headquarters in London. Specific agreements have been reached between the United States and England and the governments-in-exile of Norway, the Netherlands, and Belgium, for the administration of those countries when the armies of liberation enter. Finally, General de Gaulle has been invited to London to discuss plans for the future of France with Prime Minister Churchill and other officials of the British government.

All these moves form a part of the grand strategy of the coming battles of western Europe. On the military side alone, it is of the utmost importance that the underground forces of all the occupied countries be marshalled to assist the invading armies when they cross the channel. They have already performed valuable service to the Allied cause by supplying vital information, by engaging in acts of sabotage, and by keeping alive the flame of freedom throughout occupied Europe.

### Most Important Work

But it is recognized that their most important service to the Allied cause will come when the military forces set foot on the soil of western Europe for the grand battle of liberation. Then, they can actively assist in the struggle by directing our forces, by providing definite information about German troops and supplies, and by actively joining in the battles to come. It is no secret that General Eisenhower and the Allied high command in England are counting heavily upon the underground forces in the crucial battles of this year. That is why so much emphasis is now being placed upon maintaining contact with these forces and upon supplying them with detailed instructions.

This is only part of the picture, however. As the great battles of the war draw nearer, definite plans must be worked out for administering the regions which are liberated. More than four years of occupation by the Germans have destroyed all the forms of civil government which existed throughout Europe before the war. Those government officials and employees who have remained in administrative positions have been tools of the

(Concluded on page 2)



Many young veterans will continue their education after the war

## "A Word of the Heart"

The following editorial, which appeared in the Washington Post of May 13, has been widely acclaimed. President Roosevelt has agreed wholeheartedly with the idea expressed in the editorial that the forthcoming assault on Europe be called not the "invasion" but the "liberation." The word "liberation," declared the President, implies more than military operations and victory on the battlefield. It implies planning for the postwar world. We reprint below the full text of the editorial:

Surely our specialists in psychological warfare could have saved the warriors from dubbing the impending assault upon Hitler's fortress an invasion. An invasion is a common or garden episode in warfare. It is the means to a military end. You will find it used in the military textbooks as an operation. Only the unimaginative, thinking of the path to the imposition of our will upon the enemy, can think in terms of invasion. It is a word of the head. But this invasion is something in particular. It is in a class by itself. Nothing like it, either in scope or purpose, has ever been attempted in recorded history.

Its aim is, of course, military. Our fighting men, when they leap ashore from North Cape to the Mediterranean, will have one object: To bring down to defeat a malevolent foe who sought to bestride the entire world. The triumph of their arms is assured. Let us then think of the end when we refer to the means, the ultimate instead of the penultimate. Victory? Too tame and too military a word for what this invasion stands for. The word we need is an expression of the hopes astir in countless breasts in a score of lands. As a military operation the coming invasion will be so mammoth that the very earth is already a tangle. But to the people in Hitler's clutches the victory is an explosive idea. On the pennons of the invaders there is inscribed food and freedom. The famished see sustenance, the enslaved see liberty. Both are magical with promise.

In a way we who don't live in these lands are finding the same glittering significance in food and freedom because we have had to fight to insure them. So the victory is a crusade. It will, please God, banish the fear that for so long has been gnawing at the vitals of mankind and enable us all to see our stars again. Call this an invasion when our backs are turned to a dying world and we are fronting a world seeking to be born? It is liberation. That is a word of the heart. Let us then call this invasion the Liberation—the end and not the means, the civilizing purpose and not the military mission, the war aim and not the battle operations.

## Congress Votes New Veterans' Benefits

**GI Bill of Rights to Provide for Hospitalization, Education, Jobs, Loans, Etc.**

**PROGRAM TO COST SEVERAL BILLIONS**

**Veterans of World War II Expected to Constitute Powerful Postwar Political Force**

Demobilization Day for America is not a hypothetical date in the future. It has already begun, for demobilization is in fact a continuing process which begins long before the war ends. Already more than a million GI Joes and Janes have been discharged from service, and an additional 60,000 to 100,000 are now being discharged every month. It is reasonable to suppose that the number will increase with the onset of the invasion, as heavy casualties incapacitate many men for future service. And it is possible that the end of the European phase of the war will see discharges reaching 250,000 monthly.

Yes, Demobilization Day is here, and the country has already begun to face the numerous problems which that implies. Some of the problems involve the psychological and social readjustment of service men to civilian life. As Dr. Leo Cherne so aptly describes in an article in the May 27 *Colliers*, and in his new book, *For the Rest of Your Life*, the service man is going through a psychologically torturing period which inexorably changes his attitude toward civilian standards and customs. Resentments are being built up because of the difference in form and degree of war sacrifices made by civilians and soldiers. And the competition for jobs after the war will unquestionably sharpen and intensify those bitter feelings.

### Economic Readjustment

But even more important than the social and psychological re-orientation of service men will be their economic adjustment in civilian life. It is now commonplace to point out that industry and agriculture will be hard put to absorb millions of veterans just at a time when our economy is disorganized by reconversion, and when millions of civilians also are being "demobilized" from war work. Most veterans will need help in finding work, and many of them will need money to tide them over until work opens up. Some will want to resume interrupted education; others will need hospitalization and rehabilitation before they can take any kind of job. Some will want to start businesses, or buy farms, or build homes—and in almost every case they will be able to proceed with their plans only with outside aid.

The nation and its legislators are keenly aware of the imminence of this economic and social problem, and they have not been slow to take action. Already veterans of World War II are entitled by law to more benefits than the veterans of World War I.

(Concluded on page 7)



# For Liberated Europe

(Continued from p. 1)

Nazis and have been able to retain their position only because they were willing to do the bidding of their masters. Thus, when the Allied armies march into Europe, they will find a political vacuum which must be filled if chaos is to be prevented.

How to fill that vacuum is one of the most pressing problems confronting the Allies. In certain cases considerable progress has been made in the plans. While details of the agreements reached with the governments-in-exile of Norway, the Netherlands, and Belgium have not been made public, it is generally understood that they provide for the effective administration of these countries by representatives of the governments-in-exile. As soon as a region in any of the countries is liberated and is no longer a field of military operations, the affairs of government will be taken over by natives of the countries who have remained loyal during the trying period of the occupation. Presumably, the governments-in-exile will return to their countries to discharge the functions of government and to supervise the setting up of other units to administer the intricate affairs of government.

In the case of these three countries, close contact has been maintained between the governments in London and the underground forces which have been operating in the homelands. It is understood that special corps of administrators have already been organized and given instructions rela-

main strained. In his recent address on foreign policy, delivered to the House of Commons, Prime Minister Churchill restated the position to which both the American and the British governments have adhered. Both have refused to recognize the De Gaulle group as the government of France. As Mr. Churchill explained the relations with the Committee:

There is no doubt that this political entity, the French Committee of National Liberation, provides and directs forces at the present time which, in the struggle against Hitler, give it fourth place in the Grand Alliance.

The reason why the United States and Great Britain have not been able to recognize it as the government of France or even as the provisional government of France is because we are not sure it represents the French nation in the same way as the governments of Britain, the United States, and Soviet Russia represent the whole body of their people.

The Committee will, of course, exercise leadership in the matter of law and order in the liberated area of France under supervision, while the military exigencies last, of the Supreme Allied Commander in Chief.

But we do not wish to commit ourselves at this stage to imposing a government on any part of France which might fall under our control without more knowledge than we now possess of the situation in the interior of France. . . .

Thus, the chasm which exists between the Algiers "political entity," headed by General de Gaulle, has not been bridged. The position of De Gaulle has been clearly set forth on numerous occasions. Inasmuch as the Committee of National Liberation is the only authority in existence which speaks for the French nation, it should be recognized as the provisional government of France, pending the decision of the French people, after liberation, on the type of government they wish. Despite the refusal of the United States and England to recognize the Committee as the provisional, or temporary, government of France, the Algiers body itself recently took the name of "French Provisional Government."

As a matter of fact, the Algiers group already exercises many of the functions of government. The Committee itself is composed of representatives of various political parties in France who managed to escape after



QUISLINGS are marked for severe punishment in the occupied countries. Here, giving the Nazi salute, is Leon Degrelle, Belgian traitor

are former members of the Chamber of Deputies of prewar France. Close relations are maintained between the Algiers government and the underground movement in France.

The position set forth by Prime Minister Churchill is challenged not only by the De Gaulle group, but also by many people in England and the United States who argue that the Algiers group should indeed be recognized as the provisional government of France and should be placed upon the same basis as the governments-in-exile which enjoy full recognition. It is pointed out, for example, that only three members of the Dutch Parliament are in London with the government-in-exile, and yet the London government has full recognition as representative of the people of the Netherlands, whereas the Consultative Assembly in Algiers is composed of dozens of former members of the French Chamber of Deputies. Furthermore, the King of Belgium is a Nazi prisoner and no one knows what his attitude is toward the government-in-exile or what the attitude of the Belgians is toward him. None of the governments-in-exile, it is argued, has a better claim to recognition than the French Committee.

The most important reason advanced by those who favor immediate recognition of the Committee as the provisional government of France is that, without such recognition, it cannot operate efficiently inside France during the period immediately following the invasion. Of all the occupied countries, France is the largest and the most important. The French, always independent-minded and hostile to foreign interference with their affairs, are likely to resent any interference in the administration of their civil affairs by the British and the Americans, just as they resent the

Nazi administration of the last four years.

It is not secret that our refusal to grant De Gaulle and his Committee full recognition has tended to antagonize many elements inside France. The French have had to suffer not only the hardships and cruelties of the Nazi occupation, but many of their cities have been laid waste by the heavy pre-invasion bombings. It is argued that the most essential condition following the invasion is full cooperation of all the French people and that such cooperation can be insured only by supporting the only organized group which speaks for them.

It is hoped that the forthcoming visit to London of General de Gaulle and certain members of his government will afford the opportunity to iron out many of the difficulties and pave the way for full cooperation. Although Britain and the United States are committed to give the Committee a large measure of responsibility in preserving order in France after the occupation, no detailed plans have been worked out such as exist in the case of the other countries of western Europe.

The liberating armies, however successful they are when they breach the walls of Hitler's fortress, will leave a host of pressing problems which must be dealt with. There will be the problem of providing for the physical needs of the people, of giving them food and clothing. There will be the problem of restoring law and order and setting up temporary governments, down to the local communities.

But the biggest and most difficult problem of all will come when the people are given the opportunity to decide upon their future forms of government. What will be the attitude of the people of Belgium, for example, toward their king, who surrendered his armies to the Germans and who has been held a captive of the Nazis ever since? What will be the attitude of the various peoples toward the governments-in-exile who have lived abroad during the hard years of the occupation? Will they accept the groups which are now recognized as their legitimate governments as their representatives after the war?

These are but a few of the questions which must be faced as Europe awaits the day of liberation. But before these questions can be answered, practical means of insuring the cooperation and support of the local populations and of preventing internal disturbances must be found. The very success of future military operations depends to a large degree upon the wise handling of this problem.

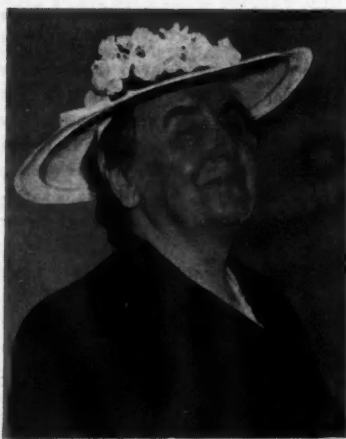


King Leopold of Belgium

tive to their functions once they are in a position to take over their duties.

The position of the United States and Great Britain, with respect to these three countries, and presumably with respect to Denmark, is that there has been a continuity of government which has remained unbroken by the occupation. At the time of the Nazi invasion, many of those who held office fled to England to carry on the duties of government as best they could. These governments-in-exile have been recognized by both the United States and Britain as the legitimate governments of those countries. As the legitimate governments they will merely return after the liberation to reestablish their authority in the homelands.

But if complete agreement exists with the governments-in-exile of Norway, the Netherlands, and Belgium as to the civil administration of those countries, no such accord has been reached with the French. Relations between the Anglo-American governments and General de Gaulle and his Committee of National Liberation re-



Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands

the occupation. The Committee may fairly be compared to the cabinet of a government. In addition to the Committee there is the Consultative Assembly, which sits in Algiers and which acts as an advisory body to De Gaulle and the Committee. While the Assembly does not have the power to legislate, it does exercise considerable control over the action of the Committee. Most of its 100 members



General de Gaulle of France



# Relocating the Japanese-Americans

FOR more than two years, most persons of Japanese descent in the United States have been obliged by our government to live in temporary camp-like centers, surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by soldiers. At one time approximately 110,000 persons were so detained in 10 centers. Since then, 19,000 of them have been classified as "disloyal" and have been segregated, while another 24,000 have been released. The remaining 67,000 are eligible for release and will be released as rapidly as possible without causing hardship or injustice. For all these 67,000 persons have been adjudged to be "loyal" to the United States. Since there is no basis for assuming that any of them would commit acts injurious to our nation if they were granted their freedom, there is no need to keep them in custody.

If there is no "need" for it, why does our government continue to hold 67,000 loyal Americans in the relocation centers? One way of answering this question is to say that the government does not want to hold them, that it is making a great effort to cease doing so, but that it is impeded by many difficulties in the process of relocation. This answer, however, doesn't explain how the Japanese-Americans came to be charges of the government in the first place.

## Evacuation

After Pearl Harbor, there was considerable fear that the Japanese might attack the west coast of the United States. To prevent any pro-Japanese "fifth column" from aiding such an attack, the Department of Justice promptly arrested all known "dangerous enemy aliens," including several hundred Japanese, who were sent to internment camps.

This action probably removed whatever real danger there was of fifth-column activity, but some civilian and military leaders—particularly on the west coast—were not sure. They urged that a very drastic step be taken, viz., that all persons of Japanese descent should be removed from the coastal area. The Army accepted this view.

With speed and efficiency the Army evacuated all 110,000 Japanese from the state of California and parts of the states of Oregon, Washington, and Arizona during the spring and summer of 1942. Two-thirds of the evacuees were native-born American citizens, called *Nisei* (pronounced nee-say). The rest were foreign-born, older Japanese ineligible for citizenship, called *Issei* (pronounced ee-say).

Evacuation solved the immediate military problem, but it created another big problem: what to do with the evacuees?

On March 18, 1942, President Roosevelt created the War Relocation Authority, a civilian agency (now part of the Department of the Interior), to look after the people whom the Army had excluded from their homes. Ten camps, called relocation centers, were speedily established on public land in seven western states. This arrangement served to provide housing and subsistence for the evacuees, but no one accepted it as a permanent solution of the problem.

It was realized that the crowded living conditions, the loss of freedom, and the implied stigma threatened to undermine the morale and patriotism of the Japanese-Americans, who were suffering for no crime other than the fact that they had had Japanese ances-

tors. Moreover, discrimination against these people because of their race was providing our Axis enemies with ammunition for their propaganda machines: the Japanese government has spread the story ceaselessly among the colored races of Asia to "prove the hypocrisy" of American claims that the United States is a democracy.

It was also recognized that our na-

tively slow and partial exodus from the relocation centers to date.

In the first place, it was realized that not all the original 110,000 evacuees should be permitted to move about freely during the war. Some were discovered to be more loyal to Japan than to the United States. These—19,000 of them, including members of their families—have systematically

cause they see no other opportunity for self-support.

Young men among the loyal *Nisei* are now subject to the draft on the same terms as other citizens of military age, and many have already entered the Army. Most of them welcome this opportunity to demonstrate their patriotism.

From the very first stages of the evacuation process many thoughtful Americans have had serious misgivings. They have deplored the human suffering that has been visited upon innocent men, women, and children. They have been shocked to observe the similarities between the condemned Nazi practice of confining a minority of German citizens in concentration camps because of their "race" and the action of the United States in confining one of its minority groups on racial grounds. They have asked how the action of our government can be reconciled with the provisions of the Constitution, which guarantees that no person shall be "deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."

## "Military Necessity"

The question of the constitutionality of the forced evacuation of 1942 is a very important and very serious one. It will not be settled until the Supreme Court renders its decision on a test case now pending before it. In the meantime, defenders of the evacuation say that it was required by "urgent military necessity," overreaching all other considerations. Many who accept the "military necessity" of what was done in 1942 insist that conditions in the Pacific War have now so changed that there remains no necessity whatever for excluding any group of loyal Americans from the Pacific Coast in 1944.

Another unsettled question is how the evacuees can be protected against heavy financial losses. Altogether, they held about \$200,000,000 worth of property on the west coast.

Finally, there is the question of what is eventually going to happen to the 110,000 Japanese-Americans who were removed from the coastal area. Will their wartime experience embitter them against our country? Will they suffer from increased, or lessened, prejudice among the white population? When will they be permitted to return to their homes? Will those who have settled, and will yet settle, in the eastern and central parts of the country be more fully assimilated into American life than they ever would have been if they had continued to live on the west coast?

Responsibility for achieving a democratic solution to these problems rests with the entire nation.

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A Latin class at the Rohwer Relocation Center

tional war effort was suffering from the fact that so many able-bodied men and women within our borders were being excluded from opportunities to produce needed food and war materials at a time when our national economy was suffering from an acute shortage of manpower.

These considerations prompted the WRA more than a year ago to adopt a policy of releasing from the centers those persons of proved loyalty who wanted to leave and for whom jobs could be found. Carrying out this policy is a primary concern of the WRA today. The policy has met with limited success, as can be seen from

been transferred from the nine relocation centers to a segregation center (at Tule Lake, California).

In the second place, prejudice is so widespread that Japanese-Americans find it difficult, if not impossible, to find places to live and work in many communities.

Recently, when five of them were hired to work on a farm in New Jersey, neighboring white farmers objected strongly and burned down one of their buildings with the result that they were forced to move. Such incidents are exceptional, however, for the WRA tries to obtain advance assurance that a community will accept



Japanese-American soldiers are entertained at a relocation center USO

the fact that 24,000 onetime residents of the relocation centers are today living and working alongside their fellow Americans in communities throughout the United States east of the restricted Pacific Coast area. Every week about 300 Japanese-Americans leave the relocation centers on "indefinite leave." Depopulation of the centers has now proceeded to the point that the WRA has just announced that one of them (at Jerome, Arkansas) will be closed before the end of this month.

Several factors account for the rela-

Japanese-Americans before they are permitted to settle there.

In the third place, a considerable proportion of the evacuees simply don't want to leave the relocation centers under the circumstances. They would, indeed, like to go back to their homes on the Pacific Coast, but that is the one place where they are not allowed to go. They are fearful of having to go out into new places and they are fearful of the discrimination which they expect to encounter on the "outside." Older people, orphans, and invalids also remain in the centers be-



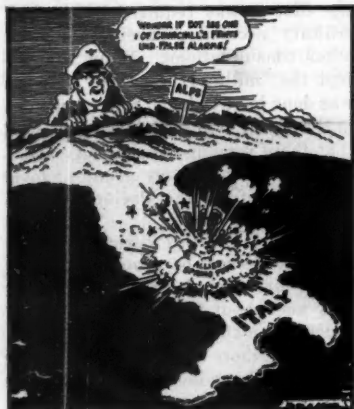
# The Story of the Week

## Gains in Italy

A new system of replacements is given much of the credit for the success with which the Allies are advancing against the German defenders in Italy. According to Secretary of War Stimson, battle-worn forces are given "immediate replacements" in order that the drive may be carried forward at all times by fresh and vigorous men.

Even before this explanation was made, it was obvious that something new had been added to give the Allied forces a strong spark. After a dramatic two-week offensive, they had cracked the back of German defenses and advanced 60 miles at some points. The climax was the joining of the Anzio beachhead forces and the main Fifth Army, giving the Allies a continuous, 150-mile front. The line in southern Italy now stretches in a huge arc from a point 20 miles south of Rome on the Tyrrhenian seacoast to the Adriatic Sea at a point above Ortona.

The position of the Germans is now such, according to some military observers, that they may decide to withdraw and form a new defense line above Rome. Should this take place, the Italian capital city might be spared the destruction which will take place if it becomes the object of a contest.



Beyond the Alps

The Germans, however, are by no means through. Even in the recent Allied offensive, they rushed heavy replacements to the fore. It was a determined move which might have yielded pronounced results had not the Allies been on hand with overwhelming air superiority to wipe out part of the incoming reserves.

## China-Burma-India Front

Monsoons in Burma and a Chinese counteroffensive in east-central China dominate the military news from Southeast Asia.

From now until the wet season ends in October, fierce gales and rains will prevent all but limited operations in Burma. The country has changed overnight into a land of newly formed lakes, torrential rivers, and sopping jungles that are a nightmare of mold, bogs, and fever-breeding insects.

The change finds the Allies in a fairly good position. General Stilwell has succeeded in pushing to his objective, the Japanese base of Myitkyina, which is a railhead of the Burmese railroad system. Behind Stilwell lies an all-weather highway from India which is to be extended and joined with the Burma Road when that is reopened.



YANK TANKS IN BURMA. American mechanized units recently went into action to support U. S. and Chinese jungle troops in Burma. They contributed to the sharp reverses which the Japanese have suffered.

To the west, the Japanese invasion of India failed to become as great a threat as it once appeared, and the enemy forces face the unpleasant prospect of spending the monsoon season in the jungles or else withdrawing under equally unfavorable conditions.

Meanwhile, the Chinese are waging a campaign in their own land which may have a decisive bearing on their military future. The early news of their counteroffensive in Honan Province is not all to the good. Although the Chinese have closed an enemy-made gap in the Peiping-Hankow railway and caused some enemy withdrawals, they appear to have lost the important base of Loyang.

On the whole, China is in a difficult position. The enemy is determined if possible to split China from east to west as well as from north to south, and perhaps to put an end to Chinese resistance this summer. The enemy is much better equipped to do this than China is to defend herself, but Chiang Kai-shek is resolutely directing operations against the threat.

## Churchill Reporting

Prime Minister Churchill's 85-minute address on foreign affairs, delivered to the House of Commons, was crowded with facts and views which are receiving the most careful study in the world's capitals. Among the highlights are the following:

Germany and Japan face only unconditional surrender, and the terms of the Atlantic Charter in no way bind the Allies to guarantee the territorial boundaries of the enemy. The frontiers of Germany in particular may have to be reduced if that should be necessary to maintain peace.

The Italian people, on the other hand, are promised that they will be free to establish their own government so long as it is democratic—"I emphasize the word democratic because we could not allow any form of fascism to be set up in any country with which we have been at war."

Likewise, less sweeping conditions will be imposed on other Axis satellites as they work their way back into the good graces of the Allies.

Britain and the United States are giving up Turkey as a bad job, and no longer entertain hope that she will range herself with the victorious United Nations. By withholding her

aid, which would be of great assistance in the Balkans, Turkey is losing out on further shipments of military supplies, and apparently has chosen to forego a place at the peace table.

Spain, however, received cordial words, and the assurance that the Prime Minister has "no sympathy with those who think it clever and even funny to insult and abuse the Spanish government."

"With the approval of President Roosevelt," General Charles de Gaulle is coming to England shortly as an invited guest to talk things over. Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia is also sending a personal military representative to London in order "that all forces in Yugoslavia may be united under the military direction of Marshal Tito."

Finally, the prime ministers of Britain and the dominions are agreed to support the establishment of a world organization, patterned somewhat after the old League of Nations, but armed to the teeth to prevent any violation of the peace. It is suggested that there be a "world council" consisting of the big victors—the United States, Britain, and Russia—which would maintain all the force necessary. All powers would belong to the second branch, a world as-

sembly, whose exact functions the address did not define.

## Streamlining Taxes

The new tax law, which moved through Congress with surprising ease, takes a little of the pain out of paying income taxes—the pain of filling out complicated forms.

It provides that about 30,000,000 of the nation's 50,000,000 income taxpayers will be relieved of filling out the forms. They will simply turn in to the government the receipts for the amounts deducted for taxes from their pay, and that is all. The other 20,000,000—those earning more than \$5,000 a year—will still have some figuring to do, but with fewer complications.

Although there has been shuffling of some tax rates, by and large most people will owe about the same amounts as they have been paying. The Victory Tax is removed, but the amount that it represented is simply absorbed in the regular income tax rate.

Another slight change is in the basic exemptions allowed each taxpayer. Under the new law these now amount to a flat \$500 a year per person. A married couple with two children—four persons in all—would therefore be entitled to a personal exemption of \$2,000 a year.

## Kaiser's Latest

Henry Kaiser has unfolded another of his many plans for keeping the nation's economic wheels turning after the war. The shipbuilder is promoting the building of a national network of airports and landing strips—5,000 in all.

Such a project, he says, would provide direct employment for 4,500,000 workers. If desired, it could be completed in six months after work is started, and the cost would be about \$250,000,000.

His plan calls for an airport every 30 miles and a landing strip every 15 miles. Covering the nation like a cobweb, there would be 12 basic routes—four east and west, and eight north and south. On the main lines, hops would be from 100 to 200 miles apart, and feeder lines from the smaller cities would hook in to the main routes.

The least developed of the stops



DIVISIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA. This map shows the Yugoslav territory claimed by Tito's Partisans and the area of General Mihailovich's influence, as outlined by Yugoslav sources in London.

would be the 3,000 flight strips—along highways, at resorts, and at emergency locations. But even these would be equipped with lunch rooms and service stations for autos and planes.

The larger terminals, divided into three sizes, would afford hangars, service stations, repair shops, cafeterias, and other accommodations. The largest of all would boast flying schools, sports fields, and all types of stores.

If such a plan were adopted and carried through, Mr. Kaiser believes that 500,000 personal airplanes selling for less than \$2,000 each could be sold within two years.

### Independence for Iceland

On the basis of a referendum held late in May, Iceland will this month announce to the world that she is a free and independent nation. With this action the last tie binding the tiny



**BOX SEAT.** Using binoculars for a "box-seat" view of the Allied push in Italy, General Sir Harold Alexander, commander-in-chief of ground forces in that theatre, stands up in his jeep as he watches troops of the British Eighth Army forge ahead.

North Atlantic island to Denmark will be severed.

Iceland has a long and noble history. Her parliament dates back for more than a thousand years. From 963 to 1263 she was an independent republic. After that there was a long period during which the country was subjected to rule by a united Norway and Denmark, later by Norway, and, until recently, by Denmark. In 1918 Iceland achieved a status similar to that of the Dominions in the British Commonwealth. Recognized as a sovereign state, she was united to Denmark only through a common king.

It is not expected that Denmark, after being freed from Nazi occupation, will exert any pressure to bring Iceland back into union. Thor Thors, Icelandic minister to the United States, said the new Republic of Iceland has been assured recognition by the United States.

On June 10, the Althing, Iceland's legislative body, will meet to name the island's first president. He will serve for one year, and succeeding presidents will be elected by the people to serve a four-year term.

### Three Years of Lend-Lease

Stressing the vital role played by lend-lease in preparation for the invasion of Europe, President Roosevelt sent to Congress recently a report on the first three years of the most ingenious mutual-aid program the world has ever seen. More than one-sixth of the total lend-lease expenditures has been made in the first three months of



**ICELAND** has declared its full independence, casting off all ties with Denmark. This is a street in Reykjavik, the capital

this year, and it is with these goods and equipment that the final blows will be dealt to Nazi Germany.

Of the more than 24 billion dollars spent for lend-lease since its beginning in March, 1941, 53 per cent has been allotted to munitions and 33 per cent to industrial products and food. In addition to goods shipped abroad, services rendered to Allied ships in American ports and other facilities here in the United States figure in lend-lease.

In describing the value of lend-lease in reverse, the President's report cited the fact that one-third of the supplies needed by our forces in the British Isles is provided without cost to us by the United Kingdom. While the rate of reverse lend-lease is approaching two billion dollars a year, it is impossible to assess its total value. For example, figures cannot reflect the inestimable worth of information on military equipment freely given us by the British.

With decisive battles in the offing, it is more important than ever that the United Nations continue to pool their resources in lend-lease fashion. This was recognized by the Congress when it authorized the extension of the Lend-Lease Act with an overwhelming vote.

### Science Talent Search

Seniors of 1945 in the nation's high schools can start work now on their entries for the Fourth Annual Science Talent Search. The contest, which is conducted by the Science Clubs of America, is already a national institution in the field of science, and to young people with promising scientific ability it offers an opportunity to compete for valuable scholarships.



**H.R.H. THE COLONEL.** Princess Elizabeth of England, now a young lady of 18 years, pays a visit to the Grenadier Guards, of which she is colonel-in-chief.

The grand prizes are two \$2,400 college scholarships, while smaller scholarships totaling \$9,200 are also awarded. In addition, the 40 finalists receive all-expense trips to the nation's capital.

The contest requires each entrant to submit an essay of about 1,000 words on the subject, "My Scientific Project." It should be original and creative in character, telling what the writer is doing or plans to do in scientific experimentation or other research activity. Each contestant must also take the Science Talent Search examination under the supervision of a teacher in his or her own school. All entries must be in not later than midnight, Wednesday, December 27, 1944.

Complete details on the requirements, the awards, and the eligibility rules can be secured by writing to the Science Clubs of America, 1719 N Street N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

### Bulgarian Dilemma

As we go to press, Bulgaria is largely cut off from the outside world, and it is not known what critical events may be taking place inside that Balkan nation. In that respect, the situation is strikingly similar to Hungary's last hours before being swallowed up by direct Nazi control. When news at last began to filter out of Hungary, she was occupied by German troops and governed by German officials.

Before the secrecy descended this time, Bulgaria was already the "host" to a vanguard of Nazis. The Germans were taking no chances that the Bulgarian government would waver and show interest in the Russian ultimatum to cease helping the Nazis. Refusal, the Soviet government warned, would spell a break in relations between Russia and Bulgaria.

This prospect is, in fact, unpalatable to the Bulgarians. Even though they have played the Axis game, they wish to have friendly relations with Russia both now and in the future. How they hoped to achieve this while aiding Russia's mortal enemy is uncertain, but they have made a desperate effort to walk the diplomatic tightrope.

Looking back on the events of the past several weeks, it cannot be said that Bulgaria did not have a chance to cast her lot with the Allies. Nor can it be said that such a choice would have invited a worse fate than to remain with the Nazis.

For she faces occupation in any event. But had she lined up with the Allies, she could at least look forward to brighter days after Germany is defeated. And it would be strange indeed if the Bulgarians are any longer banking on a Nazi victory.

## Week in Congress

During the week ending May 27, Congress took the following action on important national problems:

### Monday, May 22

Senate not in session.

House passed only minor bills and sent appropriation bills to conference committee.

Ramspeck Special Committee began hearings on Montgomery Ward seizure.

### Tuesday, May 23

Senate passed 1945 appropriation for Interior Department and the Emergency Flood Control bill. The limit of expenditures of several special committees was increased.

House passed the bill authorizing railroads to collect tariff charges on government traffic.

### Wednesday, May 24

Senate not in session.

House passed bills relating to the District of Columbia.



**"Ain't nobody here but us chickens"**

### Thursday, May 25

Senate passed a number of minor bills, several relating to Indian affairs and the Civil Service Retirement Act.

House began debate on the appropriations for War Agencies, including the controversial Fair Employment Practice Committee and the Office of War Information.

### Friday, May 26

Senate not in session.

After lengthy debate the House passed War Agencies Appropriations Bill as recommended by the committee.

### Saturday, May 27

Neither house in session.

### The American Observer

Published weekly throughout the year (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter holidays, and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.  
Subscription price, single copy, \$2 a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1 a school year or 50 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3 cents a week.  
Entered as second-class matter Sept. 15, 1931, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Civic Education Service Publications  
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Weekly News Review  
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## For Indian Freedom

## Frances Gunther's Appeal

THE importance of India both as a major Allied base and a first-rank postwar problem is reflected in the number of books on India which have appeared in recent months. It has been difficult, however, to get wholly unbiased information about India, because of the heavy veil of censorship which surrounds the country and the constant flow of propaganda, on both sides, which beclouds the problem of British-Indian relations.

A new book which, while admittedly partisan, adds to the understanding of this problem is *Revolution in India* by

Frances Gunther (New York: Island Press. \$1.122 pages). For the man who is short of time and must read as he runs, *Revolution in India* is valuable for its compactness. For the beginner, who has not yet been



Frances Gunther

thoroughly introduced to the subject, the book is also worth while: it is inexpensive, short, and simple, and it does not presuppose broad knowledge about British-Indian relations. Moreover it has an appendix containing the basic facts about India.

Frances Gunther is the wife of the well-known journalist, John Gunther. She is also a journalist in her own right, the author of numerous magazine articles and a former correspondent of the *London News Chronicle*. Her writing draws upon a broad background of travel with her husband through Europe, India, and China. She has had personal and extensive contact with India's greatest leaders, and she

thus speaks from first-hand knowledge.

*Revolution in India* is a stinging analysis of the dangers which Mrs. Gunther feels are inherent in what she calls "Britain's uncomprehending attitude toward India." It is the Gunther thesis that the mounting conflict of British "will to rule" versus the Indian "will to freedom" has produced an explosive potential far more powerful than most people in the Western world realize.

The major event of World War II is the Indian Revolution. . . . India wants her independence now, during the war, because she believes that later, during the peace, may be too late, and that only in the stress of wartime will England make what she still prefers to term "concessions." . . . The shout "Inquil Zindabad! Long Live the Revolution!" has been reverberating throughout India, throughout Asia, throughout the world. But was it heard at No. 10 Downing Street? No—they weren't listening. . . . Perhaps they didn't believe it was a revolution because the Indians didn't shoot. They forget that an idea may be more implacable than a Spitfire. They still do not realize that the only thing that stands between them and a shooting India is the unique will to love and non-violence of one Indian, Gandhi—and that when India begins to shoot, it may be too late to listen.

Mrs. Gunther is, of course, an ardent follower of the movement for Indian freedom. In support of her case she speaks of violent repressions, severe censorship, and exploitation which she feels characterize British rule in India, and which she calls "legal wrongs." She offers evidence to refute the British contention that India is a disunited country, or that it would fall prey to the communists if given freedom. She argues the moral case for Indian freedom, and insists that Indian subjection is irreconcilable with Britain's claims of fighting for democracy and liberty.



A farm house in India

But Mrs. Gunther does not stop there. She tackles the problem from the other end as well, and speaking of herself as being both "pro-Free India" and "passionately pro-English" she contends that England would in the long run be much better off without India and all that its control involves. India is not the brightest jewel in the British crown, she says, but a blot on her escutcheon, and an expensive one at that. It is true, she points out, that a few people in England have made personal gain in money and power out of British control of the subcontinent. But for the British people as a whole ownership of India has meant a loss in money and blood, and it has cost them a good deal in terms of their freedom.

In support of this contention she points out that Britain has become heavily industrialized while making India into what she calls a "slave agricultural country." Thus England has become a slave manufacturing coun-

try, lacking the agriculture to feed herself.

More than that, continues the author, control of India requires control of vast "life lines," and this involves holding Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Suez, the oil and pipelines of the Near East, and Singapore. For two centuries it has meant going to war whenever there was any threat to this lifeline of empire or its way stations, and the little people of England have paid the bill. Thus while the freeing of India might mean a short-term economic loss and an admittedly serious problem of readjustment of British economy, ultimately it would mean a freer, happier, and richer England.

It may be that Mrs. Gunther does not reckon fully with the hard realities of power politics. On the other hand, perhaps the Western world has underestimated the potential threat of an aroused India. In any event this little book represents a provocative thesis, and is decidedly worth reading.

## In the News—Gerd von Rundstedt

IN selecting the military high command which will direct the Nazi armies in the decisive battles of western Europe, Hitler has given supreme responsibility for the invasion front to the top-ranking Junker general, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt. Just as in the early days of his struggle to gain power and prestige for the party Hitler turned for support to the aristocratic Prussians, so now, in the most critical situation yet to face the Nazis, he has called again upon the Junkers for help.

Allied military observers consider von Rundstedt one of the best strategists in the German army. He has lived up to this long-established reputation in Poland and France, and it is thought that his successes in Russia would have been greater if Hitler had not ruled out his plans for the campaign. As an opponent, von Rundstedt will be less spectacular but more difficult than Marshal Erwin Rommel, who commanded the Nazi forces in Africa and who had been mentioned as a candidate for the post of supreme commander in the West.

General von Rundstedt fills all the popular conceptions of a Junker militarist. The son of a general and a member of one of the oldest and most aristocratic Prussian families, his military studies began when he was 12 years old. After completing officer training and receiving a commission, he was sent to the exclusive Kaiser's Cadet School at Potsdam.

When World War I broke out, von

Rundstedt was a major. In action with Prussian infantry in Alsace, he took command of his unit when his colonel was killed. It was in this position that he showed such extraordinary initiative and sense of timing that he was elevated to the General Staff to formulate overall strategy.

After the war he became a lieutenant colonel in charge of one of the three army groups created by the German government to maintain order. There is no evidence that Hitler's rise to power evoked any enthusiasm from von Rundstedt. There is circumstantial evidence that in 1935 he took part in a conspiracy to overthrow Hitler's

government, but withdrew shortly before the date set for the coup. Since then there have been persistent stories telling of his apathetic attitude toward the Nazis. These reports have led some people to think that when the opportunity presents itself, General von Rundstedt may become a German Badoglio, another professional soldier with no great admiration for the Fascists who will step forward to accommodate the Allies.

In 1938, when he reached the legal age for retirement, von Rundstedt withdrew from the military scene. But as the war clouds gathered he was called up for service and helped with the planning of Polish invasion. The coming of the war found him in command of the armies in southern Poland. Under his leadership German tanks overran the Polish defenses.

In France von Rundstedt's forces were the first to crack the French center defenses. But in Russia in 1941 he found that his armies were unable to attain the blitz tempo with which they had swept Poland and France. He was relieved of his command. In the spring of 1942 he reappeared as chief of the German forces in France. The defenses he has built up since then are the target of the Allied invasion.

A tall, aloof, sharp-featured man, von Rundstedt is an infantryman's general. He is a keen psychologist and has done much to abolish the "cannon fodder" idea which has stigmatized the infantry since the last war.



Field Marshal von Rundstedt

## SMILES

An artist who wanted a home in the hills was talking the matter over with a farmer who said that he had a house for sale. "I must have a good view," said the artist. "Is there a good view?" "Well," drawled the farmer, "from the front porch you can see Ed Snow's barn, but beyond that there ain't nothin' but a bunch of mountains."

Cop: "Why did you drive past me when I whistled?"

Motorist: "I'm sorry, but I'm pretty deaf."

Cop: "All right, you will have your hearing in the morning."

And there was the Indian rope trick performer who was discharged from the Navy because every time he climbed the rigging he disappeared.

In Washington, the ambassador from one of the more restless Latin American countries proposed this toast: "To my President—whatever he may be."

The medical officer was certain that he was getting evasive answers from the new recruit.

"At least you can tell me the heaviest you have ever weighed," said the officer testily.

"About 150," replied the recruit.

"And the lightest?" snapped the officer.

"Six pounds, sir," replied the other without blinking an eye.

A Cleveland resident called a window-washing company to send out a man.

"Are the windows very dirty, lady?" asked the manager.

"Certainly, that's why—"

"Sorry, lady. Takes too long to clean dirty windows these days."—CLEVELAND PRESS.



# GI Bill of Rights Passed by Congress

(Concluded from page 1)

Congress last winter approved mustering-out pay of \$200 for all those with six months' service in this country and \$300 for those with overseas service. (Veterans of the last war got \$60 discharge pay.) The veteran also receives insurance benefits, and free hospitalization and medical care for himself and his family under certain conditions. If he is disabled he is eligible for a pension, and there is opportunity for four years of vocational education paid for by the government, with compensation of \$80 a month during the training period besides allowances for the living expenses of wives and children.

In addition to these benefits, Congress is now in the process of passing an omnibus veterans' aid bill known popularly as the "GI Bill of Rights." Eight-one Senators placed their signatures on this bill before it went to the Senate Finance Committee, so that there was no question about final enactment: the Senate passed the measure unanimously on March 24th. The House likewise received the bill favorably, and gave it unanimous approval on May 18th, although with certain changes. As this paper goes to press the bill is still in conference committee, where the differences are being ironed out.

## GI Bill of Rights

The Service Men's Aid Act of 1944, as the "GI Bill of Rights" is technically known, combines in a single measure most of the proposals for helping veterans that have been made in Congress, and the recommendations made to Congress by President Roosevelt in his special urgent messages last fall. It does not, however, include a bonus, which most observers agree will eventually be granted. (Other bills are already pending which would give World War II veterans bonuses as high as \$4,500.) The GI bill has been endorsed by both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and by many labor organizations. The chief provisions of the two versions of the bill may be summarized as follows:

1. The importance of the Veterans' Administration is recognized by granting it a status second only to the War



Wounded vets of World War II are given occupational therapy and training in a hospital

and Navy Departments in securing priorities in personnel, equipment, and supplies.

2. **Hospitalization.** Although the two houses are not in full agreement as to how much should be spent on veterans' hospitals, the final GI bill will probably authorize at least half a billion dollars to be spent over a period of years to provide facilities for 100,000 additional patients. This will double facilities already provided for: veterans' hospitals at present hold 80,000 patients, and a building program now under way provides for 21,000 new beds.

3. **Education.** Both bills make certain that a soldier whose education was interrupted by the war will have full opportunity to resume it. Qualified veterans will be able to obtain money for from one to four years of schooling. The government will pay tuition, laboratory fees, health charges, and related expenses up to \$500 a year for a veteran who is taking full schooling—whether in college, high school, business school, or a scientific institution. In addition the government will pay a subsistence allowance of \$50 a month for a single man or \$75 for a married man.

The Senate bill provides that any veteran, either man or woman, would qualify for this schooling if he served a certain length of time in the armed forces after September 16, 1940; a veteran with less than this amount of service would still be eligible if he was released because of disability or injury received in service. The House bill liberalizes this benefit to include all service men not over 24 when inducted. Whether an individual would be granted more than a year of this benefit would depend on his length of service and his scholastic performance.

4. **Employment.** By the terms of the Selective Service Act the returning soldier is entitled to his old job (if it still exists) at the old rate of pay, so long as he applies to his former employer within 40 days after discharge and if conditions have not changed so as to make it impossible or unreasonable for his employer to rehire him. But there are many loopholes in this law. When the boys come back by the hundreds of thousands, at a time when industries are closing down for retooling, there may not be enough jobs to go around. Finally, there will be a heavy proportion of men who simply will not want their old jobs back, but will seek something better.

The government will, of course, make every effort to place these men.

The GI bill provides for veterans' job services to be established throughout the country and operated by veterans, which will register ex-servicemen, locate jobs for them, and watch over their working conditions. If, however, the veteran has not been placed in a job within four weeks after receiving his mustering out pay he will be eligible to start receiving \$15 a week (or up to \$25 if he has dependents) and he can continue to receive such benefits for as much as 52 weeks, according to the Senate measure. This has been one of the most controversial features of the GI bill, and the House changed the benefits to a flat \$20 a week for any veteran, regardless of dependency, and limited payments to 26 weeks.

5. **Loans.** The government will stand ready to aid those veterans who want to start their own businesses, buy farms, or build homes. Here again, however, there is disagreement as to how the loans should be handled. The Senate provided that up to \$1,000 could be loaned to each veteran by the Veterans' Administration, with no interest the first year and only three per cent a year thereafter. The House, however, raised the loan limit to \$2,500 and provided that the money should come from private lending agencies at six per cent interest annually, the government to pay the interest the first two years.

## Generous Measure

No one knows yet what these benefits will cost, although Chairman Walter F. George of the Senate Finance Committee made a rough estimate of perhaps \$3,500,000,000. That it is a generous bill—the most generous of its type in history, in fact—is admitted by all; that it is the least the nation should expect to do for returning veterans is likewise generally conceded. More than that, it is viewed by many congressmen as "true economy, the best money that can be spent for the future welfare of the nation." It is the common belief in Washington that other benefits will come in the future, both from Congress and from state legislatures.

The early passage of this omnibus bill of veterans' benefits is a clear indication that the returning of servicemen has not only psychological, social, and economic implications, but political as well. Veterans' organizations have been a potent political force during the last two decades, and have been among the most effective pressure groups active on Capitol Hill. Already large numbers of men discharged during this war have joined one or another of these service organizations, and there is talk of forming new organizations just for World War II veterans.

In any event the 12,000,000 prospective veterans of this war, together with the members of their families whom they influence, will represent an enormous bloc of the population. Naturally this group will contain individuals representing all shades of social, economic, and political opinion, but on many issues veterans will tend to think alike and to group together for effective political action. Their votes may swing many elections.

Congressmen know this, and there has been much rivalry in Congress to win the favor of returning servicemen. This in part explains the enthusiasm for the GI Bill of Rights. But at the same time the new veterans' aid measure is widely viewed as an example of intelligent and foresighted planning. It is generally agreed that the nation is responsible for helping readjust its soldier sons and daughters to civilian life, and it is better to draw up the blueprint now than at a time when the problem is already acute.

## Questions from the News

1. What role is the underground movement of Europe expected to play in the coming invasion?

2. What arrangements have been made with the governments-in-exile of Norway, the Netherlands, and Belgium for the control of liberated areas?

3. How do these arrangements differ from those we have with the French?

4. Why have the United States and Great Britain refused to recognize the De Gaulle group as the provisional government of France?

5. On what grounds has this policy been sharply criticized?

6. What are some of the principal provisions of the GI Bill of Rights?

7. How does veterans' legislation for this war compare with that of other wars?

8. True or false: The GI bill provides for a bonus payment for service men of this war.

9. What provisions does the bill make for extending social security benefits to veterans?

10. At what rate are members of the armed forces now being discharged?

11. What role is Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt to play in the coming invasion? In what important respect does he differ from Marshal Rommel?

12. On what grounds has the government's policy toward the Japanese-Americans been criticized?

13. How has the "American invasion" produced a social upheaval in England?

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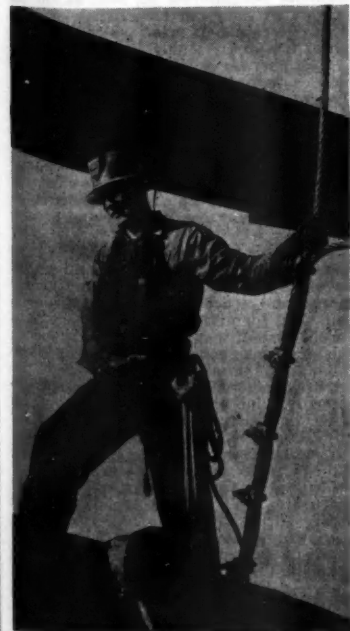
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Veterans will have to be reconditioned for jobs in civilian life



# Points of View

## What Authors and Editors Are Saying

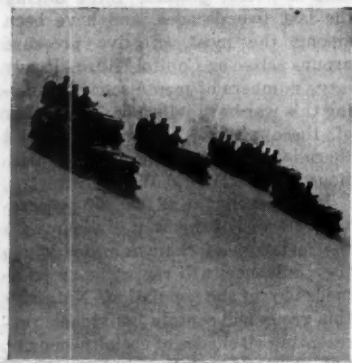
(The ideas expressed in these columns should not be taken to represent the views of the editors of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

### The American Way

Patience, thoroughness, effective use of superior resources, mastery of logistics—these are the qualities with which American armies have won wars. So says D. W. Brogan, a British professor, in the May issue of *Harper's*. The moral of the piece, implicit but not mentioned, is that the long wait for the invasion of western Europe represents the influence of American military traditions and that the same influence will assure success for the invasion.

After reviewing earlier wars in American history, Dr. Brogan concludes:

The American army is the army of a . . . country which, having lavish natural wealth provided for it and lavish



Americans are skilled in the use of mechanized instruments

artificial wealth created by its own efforts, is extravagant and wasteful. It is the army of a country in which melodramatic pessimism is often on the surface but below it is the permanent optimism of a people that has licked a more formidable enemy than Germany or Japan, primitive North America. . . .

So the American way of war is bound to be like the American way of life. It is bound to be mechanized like the American farm and kitchen (the farms and kitchens of a lazy people who want washing machines and bulldozers to do the job for them). It is the army of a nation of colossal business enterprises, often wastefully run in detail, but winning by their mere scale and by their ability to wait until that scale tells. It is the army of a country where less attention is paid to formal dignity, of persons or occupations, than in any other society, where results count, where being a good loser is not thought nearly as important as being a winner, good or bad. . . .

Other countries, less fortunate in position and resources, more burdened with feudal and gentlemanly traditions, richer in national reverence and discipline, can and must wage war in a very different spirit. But look again at the cast-iron soldier of the Civil War memorial. A few years before, he was a civilian in an overwhelmingly civil society; a few years later, he was a civilian again in a society as civilian as ever. Such a nation cannot "get there fustest with the mostest." It must wait and plan till it can get there with the mostest. This recipe has never yet failed; and Berlin and Tokyo realize, belatedly, that it is not going to fail this time.

### Declaration of Interdependence

Before the International Labor Organization adjourned its conference in Philadelphia last month, the delegates from 44 nations adopted a statement on international economic policies which is known semi-officially as the "Philadelphia Charter." President Roosevelt promptly endorsed the Charter on behalf of the United States and likened it to the Declaration of Independence, adopted 168 years ago—also in Philadelphia.

Taking its cue from the President, the *Chicago Sun* christened the Charter a "Declaration of Interdependence," reflecting the central theme: "Poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere." This principle, said the *Sun*, should be formalized in a United Nations treaty and implemented by the establishment of international institutions "designed to furnish the economic bulwarks of permanent peace." The *Sun* continued:

The war itself constitutes the conclusive evidence of interdependence, and the best demonstration of cooperative economic progress is our own history.

America reached its heights of material development because it was a great and growing free trade area in which various sections had unlimited access to vast resources; because it had the daring and the ingenuity to travel uncharted paths; because it raised the living standards of the people without respect to state lines; because it pushed forward untiringly from one frontier to another, in the faith that development of new regions could not rob but must enrich the old.

Today, in a world shrunk to the dimensions of one nation, we need a revival of that pioneer spirit as applied to modern economic circumstances.

We need recognition of the I.L.O. philosophy that full employment, high real wages, increasing productivity, social security, adequate nutrition, housing, and education must be the goals of national and international policy everywhere.

### Our Warring World

We are accustomed to think of peace as the normal condition of human relations while regarding war as only an occasional and temporary aberration. This assumption is given something of a jolt by the statistics presented in the May issue of *Social Education* in an article by Walter Conuelo Langsam, professor of history in Union College. He says:

In the 460 years from 1480 to 1939 the world saw a total of 278 armed international conflicts meriting the legal description of war. This number does not include ordinary rebellions, punitive expeditions by large against small states, or armed interventions of only a few months' duration. Were such struggles added to the list, the total would be more than ten times 278. The average length of these wars was four years and the average number of participating countries increased with each passing century.

Most of the great powers have been engaged in military conflict during more than half of the years comprising the past five centuries. Great Britain was involved in 78 of the 278 contests mentioned. France participated in 71, Spain in 64, and Russia in 61. Austria was a party to 52 major conflicts. Prussia, which had little international importance until after 1700, fought 23 times. The United States in its short history has been involved in eight wars, not counting the hundred or more military campaigns that were waged against the Indians.



Wars have been an almost continuous occurrence in world history. Here is the Spanish Armada in the English Channel in 1588

## The American Invasion

In a recent broadcast over the *Blue Network*, Leland Stowe, substituting for Raymond Gram Swing, gave the following picture of the "American invasion" of England:

In the turmoil of preinvasion news it seems to me we've missed completely one of the biggest stories of the war. Every day we read about the German-occupied countries. But what about the American occupation of Great Britain? Nothing like it has ever happened in the long history of English-speaking peoples. We've been taught the last invasion of England came with William the Conqueror, back in the year one thousand and sixty-six. But we overlook an infinitely greater invasion—the peaceful American invasion of Britain which has long since broken all records both in English and American history. The tight little British Isles are now occupied by approximately two million American servicemen—maybe more. What has this enormous influx of boisterous, cocky, wisecracking young Americans done to life in Britain?

Few of us—here in our comfortable U.S.A., ever stop to think what a physical annoyance two million lusty Americans must be in a little place like Great Britain. We just can't conceive what that means. But let's try. Let's reverse the whole process and put it in American terms. Excluding southern Ireland the British Isles are smaller than the State of Oregon. They're just about as big as New York and Pennsylvania—almost exactly the size of the states of Indiana and Illinois. Forty-five million persons live in Great Britain. Less than thirteen and a half million live in Indiana and Illinois. But let's imagine the combined population of Illinois and Indiana really totals forty-five millions—that these two states are three and a half times more crowded than they actually are. And into a super-crowded Illinois and Indiana some two million British soldiers and aviators have been dumped as allies. What would life be like in Illinois and Indiana today? Had you ever thought of that? Well, first of all, there'd be one uniformed Britisher in those

two states out of every fourteen adult Americans. You couldn't go anywhere without meeting young Englishmen, Scots and Welshmen.

If things were like they are in Great Britain now, these Allied visitors would have better uniforms than our American soldiers. If circumstances were reversed, they'd be getting paid two or three times as much as our boys were paid. So they could go to more theatres and to better restaurants than our boys could go to. And probably—being something quite different—they'd make a big hit with American girls. And if they were as happy-go-lucky as most American boys are, probably they'd take most of that for



Yank parade in London

granted. Some of them probably would say: "Well, we came over here to help the Americans win their war, didn't we?" You can see it's not so simple to have a small country occupied by two million allies.

Out of two millions, a few men, of any nationality, are bound to make themselves obnoxious. But the testimony is remarkably unanimous that most Americans have been well behaved in Britain and that most British people have found a great deal to like in the Yanks.

The average British soldier is much more subdued and quiet-spoken—and usually, I'm afraid, more polite than our gussy American boys are. And no young Britisher could ever bring himself to greet a totally unknown girl with "Hello, Toots!" That's enough, right there, to give you an idea of the social upheaval which the Americans have introduced into Britain.

### Education About Russia

Thirty-three prominent American educators have just released the following statement, setting forth the need for increased study of the Soviet Union in American schools:

In view of the importance of stable and constructive relations between the United States, Russia, and the other United Nations now and in the postwar world, it is unfortunate that we are not, as a people,

well informed about our Allies and least of all about the Soviet Union. In fact, years of prejudice and misinformation have prevented any real understanding of the people of the Soviet Union; yet our national self-interest as well as the interests of mankind as a whole demand that we establish relations with Russia on a firm and friendly basis.

The postwar world will see a tremendous development in foreign trade between our own nation and the U.S.S.R. . . . Technological interchange between the two countries will greatly increase. Cultural exchange already going on will be broadened. Therefore, men and women must be equipped with a knowledge of Russia, of its people and resources, its history, its culture, its laws and government.

With this in view, we present to those responsible for the course of study in our secondary schools, our colleges, universities and teacher-training institutions, the need for giving serious consideration to the task of including instruction on the history, geography, culture, and economics of the Soviet Union. Such instruction should be given by persons who have a sound objective knowledge of this field, particularly of developments in the U.S.S.R. during the past decade.

Textbooks now in use in our schools and in many of our libraries, it is conceded, are frequently outdated and inaccurate. We believe it our responsibility to see that accurate, factual material on all aspects of the Soviet Union is made available in our schools, colleges and libraries. . . .

Among the signers of the above statement are Stephen Duggan, Alonzo Grace, Robert and Helen Lynd, Ernest Melby, and Howard E. Wilson.



